

LETTER FROM KAUAI DOCTORS.

Fish Caught Outside Honolulu District Allowed to be Sold.

GUARDS REMOVED FROM VALLEY.

Military to Patrol Nuuanu Stream - Modifications Suggested Regarding Children in Infected Districts Attending Schools - More Taro Condemned, Etc.

The regular weekly meeting of the Board of Health was held yesterday afternoon, President Smith in the chair. Present: Drs. Day, Wood, Emerson, Wayson, Ryder, Members Waterhouse, Kelliopio, Lansing, and Health Agent Reynolds. Among the audience were Professor Alexander, president of the Board of Education, Inspector of Schools Atkinson and Postmaster General Oat.

The following communication addressed to President Smith was read from Kauai physicians:

We regret that as some of us did not receive our mail until the 28th ult. we have been unable to sooner lay before you, in a collective and connected form, our side of the question in connection with Kauai and the measures adopted to prevent the introduction of cholera.

When we advised that Kauai should have no intercourse with Honolulu while cholera was epidemic there, and that the people should give way to necessity only, we were influenced by the following considerations:

Firstly, the nature and distribution of the population we should have to deal with if cholera became epidemic here. You in Honolulu have a large intelligent population contiguous with the population that is a menace to the public health at such a period, from which you can get, and did get, valuable aid during the epidemic. We, on the contrary, have in our respective communities a large mass of ignorance, prejudice and superstition to deal with, widely distributed, with a comparatively small number of people that we could get intelligent aid from in dealing with such an epidemic as cholera.

Secondly, We have no facilities for dealing with the disease should it come among us. Were we prepared as they are in some countries to deal with it, and if trade demanded it, we should do without quarantine; but, situated as we are, it was incumbent upon us to advise such a course as would make it practically impossible for cholera to get a footing here.

That being so, and as the Board of Health in Honolulu had appointed a Committee of Health in Lihue, to whom was given an almost free hand in dealing with the situation on Kauai, we advised that the committee should adopt the longest period of quarantine known to Hawaiian law, viz: eighteen days, partly to intercept cases of cholera with an exceptional period of incubation, and partly to act as a deterrent to traffic.

We recognize and admit the authorities mentioned by the physicians on the Board of Health as placing the limit of the period of incubation of cholera at five days. We admit that such a period would embrace the great majority of cases; but we contend that there are other authorities quite as eminent as those mentioned who state that the incubation period of cholera may be much longer; e.g., Parke's Manual of Hygiene, which is the standard work on hygiene in England, India and the Colonies, says (and with your permission we will quote a portion of a paragraph which has a peculiarly apt bearing on the situation as we on Kauai see it): "As the incubative stage (of cholera) can certainly last as long as ten or twelve days, and there are some good cases on record where it has lasted for more than twenty, it is clear that quarantine unless enforced for at least the last period of time may be useless."

"An island or an inland village far removed from commerce, and capable for a time of doing without it, may practice quarantine and preserve itself; but, in other circumstances, both in theory and actual experience show that quarantine fails."

Ernest Hart, chairman of the National Health Society of Great Britain, editor of the British Medical Journal, and author of several articles on cholera, after a review of various medical authorities places the period of incubation of cholera at from one to fifteen days.

Dr Roberts of Owens College, Manchester, says that the incubative stage of cholera may run from one to eighteen days, usually from two to four. Lebert, Med. Trans. Berlin, says one to three days, exceptionally one to two, on the average it does not exceed one week, though a period of one or two weeks is by no means rare, a longer time is exceptional of course. We only take into account here those cases which have been collected with the greatest care.

From the above mentioned authorities it will be seen that in asking for an eighteen days quarantine we were asking for no more than was necessary to cover the cases of cholera which have an exceptional period of incubation. The duration of quarantine adopted in any particular place depends also on the exigencies of trade. From our insular position, which made perfect quarantine possible, from the fact that it was not necessary, nor did the people of Kauai want to have any intercourse with Honolulu while cholera was epidemic there, as no trade or industry of any consequence on Kauai suffered thereby, and as with a little adjusting of its food supply Kauai could hold out for a long time. We maintain that we were right in asking for a period of quarantine that would cover exceptional cases of incubation and act as a bar to traffic, more particularly passenger traffic. That there was no dis-

tinction drawn between cabin passengers and deck passengers in the matter of quarantine, lies rather with the lay element of the community than with us. It was thought that if any difference in treatment were enacted it would be construed as a racial difference, and that it would engender more bitterness between the natives and the whites.

We do not admit that the irreducible minimum of five days quarantine adopted by the United States authorities has any bearing on, or was at all applicable to the situation here. Five days quarantine is sufficient to intercept most cases, not all; but it would not pay the United States to interrupt their traffic to be sure that they catch all cases. Here it was not necessary for a time to have any traffic at all so that there was no justification for incurring the least risk. We do contend that the temporary period of twenty days quarantine ordered by President Harrison in 1892 has a bearing on the situation as it existed here. His proclamation was evidently meant not only to cover cases of cholera with a long period of incubation, but also to act as a check to traffic in the form of immigration, the equivalent of our deck passenger traffic. If anything, we required the longer period of quarantine more than they did in the United States, as they have facilities for combating cholera; we have not.

That we at first opposed establishing a quarantine station on this island was owing to the well known fact that land quarantine is a failure. It has been well described as an elaborate system of leakages. It was condemned at the International Health Congress at Vienna in 1874 by all the powers except France, and in the Congress at Rome in 1885 it was condemned by all the powers. In conclusion, sir, we beg humbly to maintain that the advice we gave as to quarantine and traffic was, under the circumstances, the best possible. We are,

Yours respectfully,  
D. CAMPBELL,  
ST. D. GYNLAIS WALTERS,  
JOHN WEDDICK,  
E. S. GOODHUE, M. D.

Forty-three lepers were ordered sent to the settlement. Two of the number were afterward allowed to remain at the receiving station for a few days longer in order to transact some business matters.

A letter was read announcing that several lay brothers would soon arrive from France for work at the leper settlement.

A communication filled with endearing terms regarding mercy to the afflicted, was read from A. J. Eiling, of Georgetown, Washington. He wished to come to Hawaii and look after the lepers; was willing to do so without compensation. The letter was placed on file and the writer will be informed that there is no opening at the present. In this connection President Smith explained that another party was desirous of going to Molokai and devote all her time to the lepers. While the request was given due consideration and the spirit which sanctioned the proposal recognized, it was concluded not to grant the request, owing to their being a number of ladies already at the settlement in connection with the different homes.

On recommendation of Dr. Day the Kamehameha school had been granted permission to isolate for a period of five days six scholars from one of the infected districts that desired to enter school.

The physicians favored some modifications being made in the matter of children from infected districts attending school. President Smith and other members of the Board inclined to the belief that the children would be better off attending school than running around promiscuously. Professor Alexander said children in the locality of Maunakea street was in the habit of associating and playing with those from other places. He saw no good reason why the children should not attend school; there would be no more danger by so doing than allowing association.

The not-to-be downed question of Nuuanu stream came up for consideration. An examination had been made by Drs. Wood and Day. A verbal report by the former favored withdrawing guards from the valleys and substituting military to patrol the stream. The matter of uniforms and arms would have a salutary effect upon the natives. The present guards were doing well, but could not be seen at a distance, which was considered a drawback. Two guards used a boat and rowed up and down the stream. About the mouth of the stream, near King street bridge, the stream was not as well looked after as it should be. As the water at School street bridge was not infected, the guard there was useless, and at the request of the physicians was ordered discontinued. Dr. Wood believed that eight soldiers could guard the stream successfully. President Smith said unemployed members of the volunteer companies should be used for the purpose of guarding the stream; they had uniforms and should be given the preference.

Speaking further of the stream and matters in connection with it, Dr. Wood said when proper arrangements had been made for guards, he would favor raising the quarantine on this island, perhaps with the exception of keeping guards at the pali and Maunaloa. President Smith believed it

would be better to retain the guards at the pali and Maunaloa for a time; this would better satisfy the people beyond those places. Before further action was taken on the subject, President Smith wished to know what effect, if any, the infection of certain portions of Nuuanu stream would have on passenger traffic between Honolulu and the other islands.

Dr. Wood replied by saying that all countries recognized the distinction between first and second class passengers. The danger was from steerage passengers. A motion to raise the quarantine on the valleys, to take effect at once, was carried unanimously. Nuuanu stream, the pali and Maunaloa will be strictly guarded until further notice.

Dr. Wood thought it would be safe to raise the restriction on children from infected districts attending schools by next Monday, if no new cases of cholera broke out in the meantime.

President Smith's action in condemning an additional taro patch of three-quarters of an acre in the Waipilo district was sanctioned. This was found necessary in order to dry up patches below. Sulphuric acid was being used to good effect on the patches which had been condemned.

The Board was informed that the committee appointed to ascertain the quantity and value of taro destroyed in the condemned patches would report the following day.

President Smith informed the Board that all employees at the cholera hospital had been dismissed, excepting C. J. Whitney and a guard. The place was in good order and ready for patients if there should be more cases of cholera.

The insane asylum had been in strict quarantine for a week, and as no new cases had broken out, Dr. Smith reported that the quarantine could with safety be raised. This was accordingly voted. The fields about the asylum that were declared infected are now thoroughly dry; there could be no further danger of patients developing cholera by drinking water from the fields.

There was considerable discussion about fish and how the sale should be regulated. President Smith said there could be no objection to dried fish from Hawaii, Molokai and Lanai being sold.

Mr. Lansing favored the sale of fish caught elsewhere than in the district of Honolulu, but only at one place and under close inspection. A person conversant with fish should be named as an inspector.

There seemed to be some doubt as to proving where the fish were caught. Member Kelliopio solved the problem by the proposal that all fish brought into the city be accompanied by a certificate showing where and when caught, and by whom. The certificates could be furnished by guards at the different places leading into town.

A motion by Dr. Wood that deep-water fish caught outside of Honolulu district be allowed sale under certain restrictions and inspection as may be decided on, met with unanimous approval. Dr. Emerson and Member Kelliopio were named as a committee to investigate the matter and report as soon as practicable.

The sanitary arrangements in the Armstrong block, lower King street, near the bridge, caused some discussion. The occupants failed to use the dry earth containers furnished. If there should be further violation of health laws there, those responsible for such would be arrested and summarily dealt with.

It was concluded to continue fumigation of mails. An application was read from a Chinese called Pu Ying Ping asking for a license to practice medicine among his countrymen. The application was accompanied by certificates galore, with a large red paper covered with hieroglyphics called a diploma. After considerable discussion it was concluded to lay the matter over for further consideration.

In connection with this application President Smith called the attention of the Board to the Chinese physician who had reported and treated the case of cholera brought to the hospital. The Clinician had been told that the matter of having his license rescinded would be brought to the attention of the authorities. In the discussion that followed it was shown that the Chinese doctor did not know the first principles of materia medica; had acted shamefully about leaving the patient when he should have known it was impossible for the man to live longer than a few hours. Dr. Wood raised a warning voice against legalizing Chinese to practice among their people. As guardians of the public health he believed the Board should refuse to recommend issuance of licenses to applicants, unless they could show a diploma from some reputable college and

pass a satisfactory examination. These views were concurred in by Mr. Lansing, who took the ground that passing examination was the only correct method of satisfying the Board that the applicant was entitled to practice.

MUST PROVE CAPACITY. President Cleveland Issues a Civil Service Order Affecting Consuls.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23.—The President's new civil service order affecting Consuls, issued today, is as follows:

EXECUTIVE MANSION, September 20, 1895. It being of great importance that the Consuls and commercial agents of the United States shall possess the proper qualifications for their respective positions, to be ascertained either through a satisfactory record of previous actual service under the Department of State, or through an appropriate examination, it is hereby ordered that any vacancy in a consulate or commercial agency, now or hereafter existing, the salary of which is not more than \$2500 nor less than \$1000 for the compensation of which, if derived from official fees, exclusive of notarial and other unofficial receipts, does not exceed \$2500 nor fall below \$1000, shall be filled:

(a) By a transfer or promotion from some other position under the Department of State of a character tending to qualify the incumbent for the position to be filled; or (b) by appointment of a person not under the Department of State, but having previously served thereunder to its satisfaction, in a capacity tending to qualify him for the position to be filled; or (c) by the appointment of a person who, having furnished the customary evidence of character, responsibility and capacity, and being thereupon selected by the President for examination, is found upon such examination to be qualified for the position.

For the purpose of this order, notarial and unofficial fees shall not be regarded, but the compensation of a consulate or commercial agency shall be ascertained, if the office is salaried by reference to the last preceding Appropriation Act, and if the official is not salaried by reference to the returns of official fees for the last preceding fiscal year.

The examination heretofore provided for shall be by a board of three persons designated by the Secretary of State, who shall also prescribe the subjects to which such examination shall relate and the general mode of conducting the same by the board.

The vacancy in a consulate will be filled at discretion only when a suitable appointment cannot be made in any of the modes indicated in the second paragraph of this order.

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